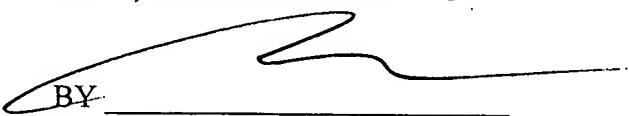


REMARKS

Pursuant to this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 1-14 have been amended and newly-submitted Claim 15 has been added. This Preliminary Amendment does not add new subject matter. Moreover, Applicants note for the record that the Preliminary Amendment is submitted to place the above-identified application in proper U.S. format and not to avoid prior art. Therefore, Applicants do not intend to disclaim any subject matter in view of the Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC



BY

Robert M. Barrett
Reg. No. 30,142
Customer No.: 29157

Dated: January 13, 2006